

# JUDICIARY OF SEYCHELLES

REPORT 2016/2017



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*Re-Opening of the Supreme Court held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Victoria on 10 January 2017*

## FOREWORD BY CHIEF JUSTICE M. TWOMEY

It has been two years and four months since I assumed office and this is the first report that has been issued since. Reports are important in improving transparency in the Judiciary, and allow us an opportunity to reflect on some of the changes made and progress attained.

It feels as though the past two years have been a programme of change, with the catalysts for those changes being both intentional and incidental. Some changes are beyond our control – changes to personnel, the Unity House move etc., and some are our cause – heightened scrutiny of the Judges and lawyers, the introduction of the strategic plan, the reintroduction of judicial training. The Judiciary and its staff have been required to adapt and grow with each new challenge and have done so admirably.

It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that all change is good. But it is important that we remember that change can cause instability as much as it can cause growth, and we must be careful to ensure the latter. Our primary purpose exists to ensure that fair and impartial decisions are made for the people who bring cases to our courthouses. It is easy to lose sight of these goals in the face of ambitions, modernisation, politics, daily struggles and lack of resources. For this reason, with the introduction of the strategic plan in February 2017 we chose to base it on the previous strategic plan – this is aimed at achieving incremental growth, not a re-invention of the wheel.

We believe that the changes and growth show that the Judiciary is doing well. We are striving towards a time when we will be able to relax the programme of necessary change, however we still believe that there is much to be achieved to create an efficient, open and professional Judiciary.

We are only able to produce good results if the cases before us are well brought. Increased access to Legal Aid by alternating allocation amongst lawyers, more training programmes for lawyers and judges, and courts taking a more active role in the management of the cases will work towards ensuring that only proper disputes are brought to court.

We are proud of the work that the Judiciary does. The Judicial officers, registry staff and all staff of the Judiciary should be applauded for the roles that they play. Each person performs an ungrateful task and I am ever thankful for the optimism and good morale of our team in the face of the difficulties faced. I look forward to 2018 and thank each and every judiciary team member for playing their parts over the past two years.

I want to particularly thank Joelle Barnes, my executive legal assistant, for the support she gives me and the Judiciary and for compiling and writing this report.

Dr. Mathilda Twomey

Jan 2018



*Jemina Lucas, PA to the CJ, Chief Justice Twomey and Joelle Barnes, ELA to the CJ - Office of the Chief Justice*



## THE JUDICIARY

### INTRODUCTION TO THE JUDICIARY OF SEYCHELLES

The Judiciary of the Seychelles draws its judicial authority from Chapter VIII of the Constitution of Seychelles and consists of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Seychelles and such other subordinate courts or tribunals established by an Act pursuant to article 137 of the Constitution. The following courts and tribunals are also part of the Judiciary: the Magistrates' Courts established under the Courts Act 21 of 1964, the Family Tribunal and Juvenile Courts established under the Children Act 16 of 1982, the Employment Tribunal established under the Employment Act 2 of 1995, and the Rent Board established by the Control of Rent and Tenancy Agreements Act 5 of 1955.

**The term 'judiciary' is used to describe the branch of government which administers the court system in the country and is primarily responsible for resolving legal disputes. Judges, magistrates and other decision makers are referred to as 'judicial officers'.**

The Court of Appeal is administered by the President of the Court of Appeal and has four Justices of Appeal appointed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority. It sits from time to time throughout the year, and has three two-week sessions in April, August and December respectively during which all five Justices of Appeal take hearings sitting as benches of three or five and deliver rulings together. It has the jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from the Supreme Court and any other appeal permitted by an Act.

The Supreme Court is administered by the Chief Justice and has seven puisne Judges and a Master who are appointed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority to exercise judicial functions at the Supreme Court level. The Supreme Court has original power under the Constitution to hear and determine civil and criminal matters, supervisory jurisdiction over other courts and Tribunals, and original and appellate jurisdiction as granted to it by any Act. Judges of the Supreme Court may be co-opted to the Court of Appeal at the request of the President of the Court of Appeal to sit on specific cases where the Court of Appeal requires it. Chief Justice Twomey is appointed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority as both a puisne judge and a Justice of Appeal however she is only salaried for the position as Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court sits daily during three terms or sessions in the year which are held from 10<sup>th</sup> January through 10<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May through 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> September through 10<sup>th</sup> December as determined by the Supreme Court (Terms) Rule, 2016. Individual Judges may agree to sit during the court vacation periods to hear and determine matters which require extraordinary sittings. During the court vacation there is a duty Judge who is available to take urgent matters arising. All other court functions continue during the court vacations.

The Constitutional Court is constituted when two or more Judges sit together to determine cases which concern the application, contravention, enforcement or interpretation of the Constitution. Constitutional Court cases are usually held on Tuesdays during the Supreme Court session, however the Judges on the Constitutional Court bench may schedule to hear the matter on any day.

There are five appointed magistrates who hold sittings in Victoria and Anse Royale and on Praslin and La Digue. The courtrooms in Victoria sit all year with a court vacation during the Supreme Court vacation. During 2016 the court rooms in Anse Royale and La Digue were reopened and presently the same magistrate who has sittings in Anse Royale sits on Praslin and La Digue for one week of each month.

The Rent Board is chaired by a magistrate and has three members. Rent Board cases are administered by the Assistant Registrar of the Magistrates' Court, Victoria and sittings take place one day a week, at the Victoria Magistrates' Court.

The Family Tribunal is chaired by a Chairperson and two vice-chairpersons and has six members (two are full-time). The Family Tribunal sits three days a week at the Victoria Magistrates' Court. It is administered by the Secretary for the Family Tribunal and has its own compliance, monitoring and enforcement officers.

The Juvenile Court is administered by the Victoria Magistrates' Court and is chaired by a magistrate sitting with at least two persons. Sittings take place twice a month.

The Employment Tribunal functions from the Supreme Court Annexe on Ile du Port. It is chaired by a Chairperson and a vice-chairperson and has six members. The Employment Tribunal sits four days per week. It is administered by a Secretary for the Employment Tribunal and a secretariat which manages registry matters.

The administration of the Judiciary as a whole is overseen by the Chief Justice with the Registrar appointed to oversee the courtroom processes and statutory functions and a central administration to address all other functions.

### STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE JUDICIARY

In February 2017, the Judiciary launched and signed up to a strategic plan which would span four years – 2017 to 2020. The strategic plan, titled Vision 2020 was the output of a process of consultation with stakeholders on the successes of the Judiciary's previous strategic plan, its

**The Judiciary's vision is to be a dynamic institution with contented staff working together to promote fewer litigious disputes and faster case resolution by offering high quality, fit for purpose solutions for court users.**

current position and its aspirations. The Vision 2020 sought to build on the successes of the previous strategic plan and maintained the eight strategic imperatives of the former strategic plan, adopting its unachieved outcomes and additional updated goals.

Achievement of the strategic plan will be ensured through a layered system of accountability. The Office of the Chief Justice will oversee the roll out of the plan. Special committees are set up to oversee specific topics and individual sections are responsible for implementing the plan within their own sectors. The strategic plan will be reviewed annually.

## VISION OF THE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary's vision is to be a dynamic institution with contented staff working together to promote fewer litigious disputes and faster case resolution by offering high quality, fit for purpose solutions for court users.

## MISSION OF THE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary's mission is to effectively and competently administer justice in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Seychelles in a timely, impartial and independent manner.

## CORE VALUES

The Judiciary is committed to working for **excellence** in every task we do, maintaining our **independence** as the third branch of the state and watchdog of the Constitution, and at all times acting with **integrity**, maintaining a high standard of **ethics**, treating all persons with **respect** and showing **professionalism**.

## STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

The Judiciary has committed itself to the same eight strategic focus areas as had been adopted in the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan. These are:

1. Streamlining Court Processes
2. Innovating Case Administration Solutions
3. Revamping the legal aid scheme
4. Encouraging better employee relations
5. Repositioning the public image
6. Upgrading basic infrastructure
7. Engaging local partners
8. Securing greater financial autonomy

## THE SEYCHELLES JUDICIAL SYSTEM 2016/2017

### COURT OF APPEAL

The Court of Appeal bade a fond farewell to Justice Satyadhooshun Domah and Justice January Msoffe during 2017, both of whom had completed their appointed tenure on the Court. Justice Bernadin Renaud was appointed to the Court of Appeal in May 2017 and Justice Fiona Robinson in September 2017.

Mrs Situmbeko Masialeli was recruited as a legal researcher for the Court of Appeal in 2016.

## SUPREME COURT

During 2016 the Supreme Court recruited Judge Seegobin Nunkoo, a Mauritian legal expert with particular insight into investigations of financial crime and mixed jurisdictions and Judge Melchior Vidot, who had previously performed the role of Registrar/Master of the Supreme Court, joined from private practice.

Ms. Anne Kautsky was recruited to be the Judiciary's first dedicated Public Relations and Communications Officer. In January 2016, a new system was introduced to enable more efficient production of court records and to ensure that work is fairly balanced between court reporters. It was introduced to address concerns about court proceedings which were over 6 months old and which had not been typed. The project was overseen by the Registrar working with two senior court reporters and exceeded expectations by completing the outstanding proceedings within three months of the introduction of the system.

In 2017 the Judiciary saw the departures of Judges Crawford McKee and Dan Akiiki-Kiiza, who had been seconded by the Commonwealth of Nations to assist with Seychelles' Supreme Court's chronic case backlog for the previous three years. Both Judges brought a calmness and professionalism to their roles. They were especially instrumental in their roles on constitutional panels, including the Election Petitions of 2015 when their international experience brought particularly valuable insight to the bench.

Judges Rony Govinden, and Laura Pillay were appointed to the Supreme Court during 2017. Each appointee brought a wealth of knowledge and experience coming from a role as the Attorney General and a senior magistrate respectively.

The Supreme Court instituted a more active approach to case management in both civil and criminal matters which is designed to ensure trial certainty and greater preparedness for trial. In this respect cases which are older than 2013 are regarded as backlog and receive priority in terms of listing. The Judiciary is committed to ensuring that it is able to efficiently hear and complete cases and this can be seen by the tangible results over the past two years.



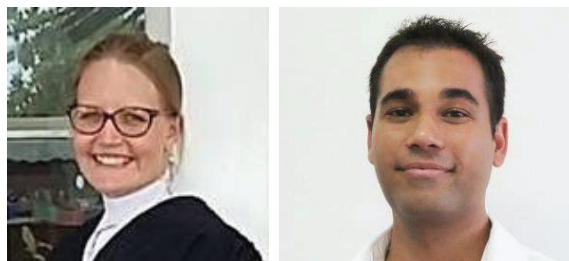


## CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

The Constitutional Court was taken up with matters of international importance in both 2016 and 2017. During 2016 many cases concerned issues related to elections. During 2017 the bulk of the cases concerned land acquisitions and the appointment and discipline of constitutional actors. The Court takes cases on Tuesdays which continues to work as an allocated day for such cases.

## MAGISTRATES' COURTS

The Magistrates' Courts saw a significant amount of change during the two year period covered. The regional magistrates' courts on La Digue and Anse Royale were reopened during 2016. Mrs. Jessica Kerr was appointed in April 2016 and took up the role at the Anse Royale courthouse, as well as on La Digue.



*Magistrates Jessica Kerr and George Robert who left Seychelles in 2017*

In 2017, Kishnan Labonte was appointed to the National Drugs Enforcement Agency after a diligent service at the Magistrates' Court. His calm efficiency and affable personality are sorely missed. Senior Magistrate Laura Pillay was appointed a Supreme Court Judge, leaving the hallways of Unity house quieter and infecting the Supreme Court complex with her laughter and a plethora of potplants. Mr.

George Robert left the Magistrates' Court in May in order to travel to Australia to undertake a Masters Degree. Magistrate Jessica Kerr departed to Italy in September 2017 for family reasons and will accompany her husband in 2018 in his new role as a lecturer at the University of Western Australia and to pursue her own career. The Judiciary recruited and welcomed Mr. Andy Asba and Mrs. Natasha Burian as magistrates in Victoria and Mr Vipin Benjamin as a senior magistrate in Anse Royale.

## EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

During 2016 the Employment Tribunal relocated to the Supreme Court Annex which strengthens the perception of its independence from the Ministry of Employment and it completes the transition of the Tribunal from the Ministry to the supervision of the Judiciary.

Mr. Michel Valentin was promoted to Secretary of the Tribunal in May 2016 and Ms. Alexandra Madeleine was appointed as the vice-chairperson in 2017 to replace Mr. George Robert upon his departure.



*Judges Akiiki-Kiiza and McKee who left the Supreme Court in 2017*

The Employment Tribunal remains a very busy tribunal with protracted and emotive hearings. The Tribunal continues to sit four times a week in order to meet the demand for its services. The Supreme Court Annex is well suited to housing the Employment Tribunal.

## FAMILY TRIBUNAL

The Family Tribunal is chaired by Magistrate Andy Asba who was previously appointed together with Mrs. Natasha Burian as vice-chairpersons during 2016. He was appointed as chairperson in 2017, with the promotion of Judge Pillay to the Supreme Court, and the appointment of Mr. Asba and Mrs Burian to the Magistrates' Court. Mrs. Burian remains the vice-chairperson along with Mrs. Samantha Aglae who was recently appointed in 2017. Mr. Robert Georges resigned from the Family Tribunal after serving on it for many years. Mrs. Josette Thelermont retired from the Family Tribunal in 2017 after a long and committed service to the Judiciary. She is replaced by Ms. Jane Marguerite.

The Chairpersons of the Family Tribunal have put in place structures to ensure the better management of the court diary and have pushed to ensure that fewer delays are faced by litigants. It remains the busiest court in Seychelles and will be looking to expand its capacity during the coming years. The recent legislative changes permitting a higher number of members and greater independence will facilitate the work of the Tribunal and are welcomed.

## RENT BOARD

The Rent Board, during 2016 was chaired by Magistrate Robert and on his departure Magistrate Burian has assumed the chairmanship. She has introduced a full day sitting on a Friday to facilitate the clearing of backlogged applications and to ensure better continuity in hearings. The Rent Board faces difficulties with staffing due to the overlap of appointment procedures with the Ministry for Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport. The Rent Board consists of dedicated and experienced board members whose ongoing commitment is under-recognised and under-remunerated. The Judiciary remains committed during 2018 to addressing these resourcing constraints.

## JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court previously chaired by Magistrate Labonte is now headed by Magistrate Ng'hwani and consists of four other members. It deals with important cases against persons under 18 years old who are charged with criminal offences. It presently sits twice a month, but in view of the fact that the cases involve serious charges against children, efforts are underway to increase the frequency of sittings in order to prioritise these cases.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE JUDICIARY

The Judiciary has seen great strides achieved in the past two years with an enhanced financing of the scheme of service and increased budget to recruit administrative support staff. The support of the Ministry of Finance has been instrumental in enabling the Judiciary to increase its capacity. The Judiciary now looks forward to achieving financial autonomy in 2018.



The Judiciary has focused the spending of its resources on the infrastructure and facilities, security of its officers and training for judicial officers and support staff. These continue to be areas of need. Rental of premises for the Magistrates' Courts and Family Tribunal remains a financial drain on the resources and will be addressed in the building of a Magistrates' Court in the Palais de Justice grounds which is projected to commence in 2018.

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## JUDICIAL OFFICERS

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### COURT OF APPEAL

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The Court of Appeal consists of:

- Justice F. MacGregor, President of the Court of Appeal
- Justice A. Fernando
- Chief Justice M. Twomey
- Justice B. Renaud
- Justice F. Robinson

Assistant Registrar of the Court of Appeal: Mrs. Vivienne Vadivello



*Court of Appeal Judges, December 2017*

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### SUPREME COURT

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The Supreme Court consists of:

- Chief Justice M. Twomey
- Judge M. Burhan
- Judge R. Govinden
- Judge G. Dodin
- Judge S. Govinden
- Judge S. Nunkoo
- Judge M. Vidot
- Judge L. Pillay
- Master E. Carolus



*Supreme Court Judges, December 2017*

Registrar of the Supreme Court: Mrs. J. Esticot

Deputy Registrar: Mrs. J. Lepathy

Assistant Registrars: Ms. M-A Barbe (Criminal), Mrs. S. Andre (Civil and Commercial)

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### MAGISTRATES' COURTS

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The Magistrates' Court consists of:

- Mr. Brassel Adeline, senior magistrate
- Mr. Vipin Benjamin, senior magistrate
- Mrs. Mariam Ng'hwani, magistrate
- Mr. Andy Asba, magistrate
- Mrs. Natasha Burian, magistrate

Assistant registrars for the Magistrates' Court: Ms. E. Aglae and Ms. K. Quatre



*Magistrates, December 2017*

RENT BOARD

The Rent Board is chaired by Mrs. N. Burian who sits with the following members  
Mr. O. Delcy, Mrs. M. Josephine and Mrs. F. Afif.

JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court is chaired by Mrs. M. Ng’hwani who sits with the members of the  
Juvenile Court, Mr. O. Delcy, Mrs. C. de Commarmond, Mrs. R. M. Elizabeth, and  
Mr. A. Valmont.

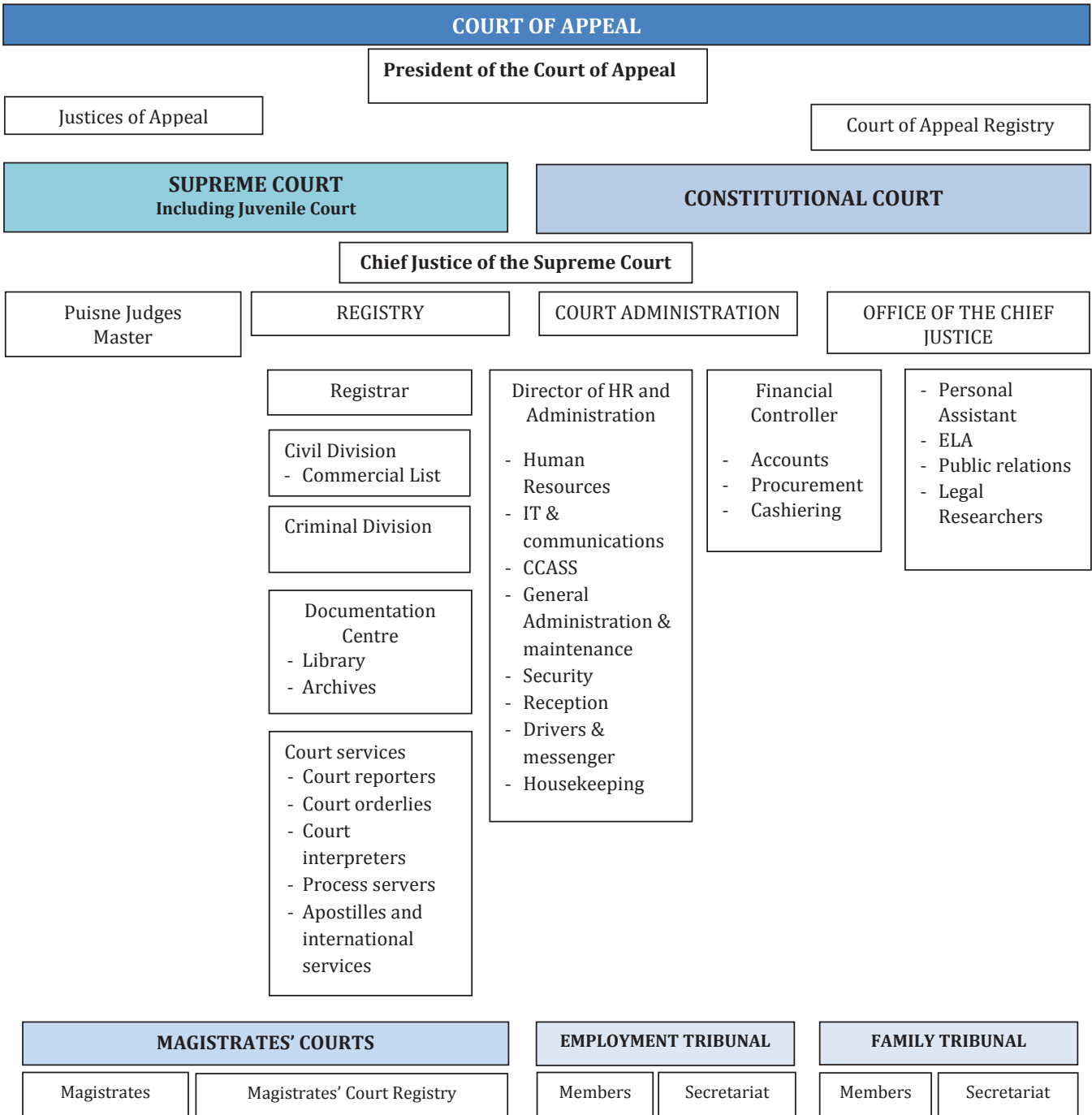
FAMILY TRIBUNAL

The Family Tribunal is chaired by Mr. Andy Asba with Mrs. N. Burian and Mrs. S. Aglae as  
vice-Chairpersons. Other tribunal members are:

Mrs. L. Cedras	—	Full Time Board Member
Mr. V. Atala	—	Full Time Board Member
Mrs S. Evenor	—	Part Time Board Member
Mrs E. Gay	—	Part Time Board Member
Mr R. Moumou	—	Part Time Board Member
Mr J. Hollanda	—	Part Time Board Member

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

The Employment Tribunal is chaired by Sen. Magistrate Brassel Adeline, with  
Mrs. A. Madeleine as vice-chairperson. Other appointed tribunal members are:  
Ms. V. Bresson, Mr. F. Charles, Mrs. W. Didon, Mr. R. Henriette, Mrs. J. Moustache and  
Mr. P Nicette.





COURT LOCATIONS

**Court of Appeal**  
First floor, Palais de Justice  
Ile Du Port, Mahé  
422-4078

**Supreme Court**  
Palais de Justice  
Ile Du Port, Mahé  
428-5800

**Magistrates’ Courts Victoria**  
Block A, Third Floor  
Unity House, Victoria, Mahé  
428-8702

**Magistrates’ Court Anse Royale**  
Courthouse Building  
Anse Royale, Mahé  
428-5817

**Magistrate’s Court Praslin**  
Pension Fund Building  
Grand Anse, Praslin

**Magistrate’s Court La Digue**  
Courthouse, La Passe  
La Digue

**Family Tribunal**  
Block A Third Floor  
Unity House, Victoria, Mahé  
428-8705  
*\* Please note the Family Tribunal will be moving to the Supreme Court Annex in January 2018.*

**Employment Tribunal**  
Supreme Court Annex  
Ile Du Port, Mahé  
428-5826

ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVES 2016/2017

SENTENCE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Pursuant to the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 2016 a bench of two Judges and two Magistrates heard and decided over 200 cases of persons sentenced under the provisions of the Act. As a result of this process, guidelines for the sentencing of drug and drug related offences were introduced and are applied uniformly by magistrates and judges.



*Sentence Review Tribunal with State Counsel on Marie-Louise Island Prison*

RELOCATION OF MAGISTRATES  
COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

During 2016, the dilapidated Magistrates’ Court premises in Victoria became uninhabitable and the Judiciary shifted five magistrates’ courts and two tribunals in a very short period of time. The Magistrates’ Courts and the Family Tribunal moved to Unity House in Victoria and the Employment Tribunal shifted to the Supreme Court Annex at Ile du Port.

NEW MAGISTRATES’ COURT  
BUILDING

On 20 September 2017, the Government of India issued a note to the Republic of Seychelles indicating its intention to earmark donation of the funding for the

construction of a Magistrates’ Courthouse on the vacant plot between the Palais de Justice and the Supreme Court Annex on Ile du Port. A Joint Project Monitoring Committee was established to oversee the project.

CCASS COMMITTEE

The CCASS Committee, chaired by Judge Samia Govinden is a stakeholders committee with representatives from relevant judicial departments as well as DICT. Its role is to oversee the implementation, maintenance, and development of the central case administration system, termed “CCASS” which enables the courts to digitally store and access information relating to the cases before the courts. The CCASS system is presently rolled out across the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Magistrates’ Courts.

In 2016, the CCASS committee worked extensively with DICT on the development of a new version of CCASS which is compatible with newer computers. This replaces the very successful program which was introduced in 2012. The funding for this project was generously made available by the UNODC in order to assist the Judiciary with its efficiency and capacity.

The new CCASS system was adopted by the Judiciary in January 2017 and efforts continue to ensure that it meets the needs and expectations of all stakeholders, including registry staff and court users.

BAN KI-MOON VISIT

In May 2016, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon visited the

Supreme Court Annex at Ile du Port which was donated to the Judiciary by the UNODC. During the visit Chief Justice Twomey illustrated the utility of the Annex courtrooms as well as the video link facilities which enable direct video link usage between the courthouses and the prison at Montagne Poseé.



*Ban Ki-Moon in the Annex courtroom with officials from Montagne Posee via videolink*

ACTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, the Judiciary launched a new approach to actively managing court cases in line with its Strategic Plan, Vision 2020. It is a significant step towards bringing local practice in line with international best practice for case management. The new system, as brought in by two Practice Directions of the Chief Justice seeks to ensure that all cases are dealt with justly and expeditiously. The new approach aims to establish time frames for the duration of a trial, from its starting date to the delivering of judgment, thereby benefitting plaintiffs, witnesses, lawyers and judges alike. It also allows for a more responsible use of court resources, reduces delay, will prevent the buildup of backlog and ensure a fair trial for every person, irrespective of status.

During 2016 and 2017, in cooperation with the UNODC, expert judges worked with the Chief Justice to undertake studies of the

current systems and to design an approach tailored to the Seychelles legal system within the ambit of the existing laws. Visiting judges from the United Kingdom, led by Judge Shaun Lyons, assisted the Judiciary with conducting intensive training and workshops for judges and lawyers in July 2017 in anticipation of these changes.

The new approach seeks to reduce the number of court appearances and ensure that trials take place when scheduled. This entails holding preliminary hearings to determine early identification of issues, their gravity and complexity, and the severity of consequences faced by parties. The Judge is able to allocate the amount of court time required and the amount of preparation time for formulating and delivering judgment. Mediation is also considered and encouraged in all appropriate cases.

A pre-trial review is held six weeks prior to the fixed trial date in both criminal and civil cases, to determine whether all directions have been complied with and whether the trial can proceed. Judges are to deliver judgment within 60 days of the completion of a hearing.

The new Case Management System applies to all cases filed in the Supreme Court after October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 and will be extended to the Magistrates' Court in 2018.

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#### CENTRAL DIARY AND DIGITALISED CASES

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In conjunction with the Practice Directions to promote active case management, the Supreme Court undertook to establish a central, digital, court diary. This enables a listing officer to list matters for all courtrooms and to therefore make better

use of court resources. It came into effect on 1 October 2017 and will in time be rolled out to the Magistrates' Court. Through this system lawyers can be emailed confirmation of court dates and times.

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#### JUCOS

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During 2016, the Judicial College of Seychelles was revitalised with Judges attending several training sessions domestically and abroad. Judge Melchior Vidot heads the management of this College. Sessions on Evidence law, Property law and Medical Negligence were provided to Judges and members of the Bar in association with the University of Seychelles.

In June 2017, judicial officers and the Bar were invited to a lecture on Advocacy given by Ms. Stephanie Carr which was held at the Coral Strand.

A one day seminar on the use of International Law in Domestic Cases was provided on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and attended by all Judges and Magistrates.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December a seminar on Property Law was organised by members of the Bar Association and attended by the Bar and Judicial Officers.



*President of the Court of Appeal with Bernard Georges on Constitutional Day*

were able to participate and the responses to the events were very positive.

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#### BAR EXAMINATIONS

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During 2016 and 2017, the Board of Bar Examiners, chaired by the Chief Justice, administered the Bar Examination. New rules and regulations were introduced by the Board to ensure fairness and certainty in the examinations. This includes determining the dates for the annual sitting of the examinations, the introduction of a marking rubric to be applied by all examiners and a deadline for the marking of the papers.

In August 2016, twelve persons sat the examination and four persons passed.

In August 2017 eight persons sat the examination and one person passed.

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#### ANDRE SAUZIER WRITING AWARD

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During 2016 and 2017 the Judiciary worked with the University of Seychelles to host the Andre Sauzier Writing Competition and the Moot court competition. These initiatives are designed to give young Seychellois students and lawyers an opportunity to engage with Seychelles law and showcase their skills.

The winner of the Andre Sauzier Writing Competition in 2016 was Edith Wong with papers by Rajiv Shah and Angelique Pouponneau being awarded second and third place. The results of the 2017 competition are yet to be announced.

In 2016, the Master Ellen Carolus presided over the moot court competition and in 2017 this role was fulfilled by Judge Melchior Vidot. Students from Unisey

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#### RECRUITMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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##### OVERVIEW OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

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##### 2016

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 the Judiciary recruited 33 employees mostly to fill existing vacancies. A new post PR & Court Services Officer was created and filled on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and an expatriate joined at the Court of Appeal in the capacity of Legal Researcher.

There were 7 promotions within the judiciary. The Clerk of the Employment Tribunal was promoted to Secretary of the Employment Tribunal on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development.

##### New Judges recruited in 2016

Judge Seegobin Nunkoo – 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Judge Melchior Vidot – 17<sup>th</sup> June

##### New Magistrate recruited in 2016

Magistrate Jessica Kerr – 1<sup>st</sup> April

##### 2017

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 the Judiciary recruited 18 employees mostly to fill existing vacancies. An expatriate joined in the Supreme Court in the capacity of Legal Researcher on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. A new Secretary for the Family Tribunal was appointed on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 after Ms Josette Thelermont, previously holding that post opted for



retirement on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 after giving near 40 years of service into the public service. Ms Rolline Sedwick, from Housekeeping Department also opted for retirement on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

There were 6 promotions in 2017

2 New Judges were recruited in 2017 to replace the two Commonwealth Judges who completed their contract

Judge Rony Govinden – 31<sup>st</sup> March

Judge Laura Pillay – 31<sup>st</sup> March

2 Judges were transferred to the Court of Appeal

Justice Bernadin Renaud – 18<sup>th</sup> May

Justice Fiona Robinson – 6<sup>th</sup> September

Justice of Appeal – 2 Justices left at the end of their contract

Justice Domah Satyadhooshun – 31<sup>st</sup> May

Justice Henry January Msoffe – 13<sup>th</sup> August

New Magistrates recruited in 2017

Senior Magistrate Vipin Benjamin – 16<sup>th</sup> August

Magistrate Andy Asba – 29<sup>th</sup> March

Magistrate Natasha Burian – 1<sup>st</sup> May

Magistrates left in 2017

Magistrate Kishnan Labonte transfer to National Drug Enforcement Agency in February

Magistrate George Robert left 31<sup>st</sup> May

Magistrate Jessica Kerr – 12<sup>th</sup> September



*Justices of Appeal, April 2017 at the Farewell dinner for Justices Domah and Msoffe*

SUPREME AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS	2016			2017		
Job title	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Registrar		1	1	-	1	1
Deputy Registrar		1	1	-	1	1
Assistant Registrar		4	4	-	5	5
Senior Law Clerk		2	2	-	3	3
Law Clerk		8	8	-	9	9
PA to Chief Justice		1	1	-	1	1
Executive Legal Assistant to Chief Justice		1	1		1	1
Legal Researcher				1		1
Chief Court Orderly		1	1		1	1
Senior Court Orderly		1	1		1	1
Court Orderly	1	14	15	1	17	18
Chief Court Reporter		0	0			0
Senior Court Reporter		2	2		2	2
Court Reporter		16	16		22	22
PR & Court Services Officer		1	1		1	1
Chief Court Interpreter						
Senior Court Interpreter		2	2		2	2
Court Interpreter	0	8	8	6	7	13
Chief Process Server	1		1	1		1
Senior Process Server	1		1	1		1
Process Server	1	1	2	1	1	2
Senior Driver	10		10	12		12
Driver/Messenger	2		2	1		1
Private Secretary (Registrar's office)		1	1		1	1
Administrative Assistant		1	1		1	1
Director of Admin/Finance/HR	1		1	1		1
Human Resources Manager		1	1		1	1
Human Resources Assistant		1	1		1	1
Manager System Support	1		1			0
System Support Officer	2		2	2		2
Programmer	1		1	1		1
Security Support Officer	1		1	1		1
Documentation Officer, Assistant		1	1		1	1
Documentation Assistant, Senior		1	1		1	1
Documentation Assistant		2	2		2	2
Financial Controller	1		1	1		1
Accountant Assistant	1		1			0
Accounts Technician		1	1		1	1
Accounts Assistant		2	2		2	2
Cashier		3	3		3	3
Procurement Officer		1	1		1	1
Assist Administration Officer		1	1		1	1
Receptionist		1	1		1	1
Cleaner	2	11	13	2	12	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>136</b>

COMMERCIAL LIST	2016			2017		
Job title	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Assistant Registrar		1	1		1	1
Law Clerk		1	1		1	1
TOTAL	0	2	2	0	2	2
COURT OF APPEAL	2016			2017		
Job title	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
PA to President of Court of Appeal		1	1		1	1
Assistant Registrar		1	1		1	1
Legal Researcher		1	1		1	1
Law Clerk		1	1		1	1
Court Reporter		1	1		1	1
Receptionist/Clerk		1	1		1	1
Senior Driver	3		3	3		3
Cleaner		1	1		1	1
TOTAL	3	7	10	3	7	10
FAMILY TRIBUNAL	2016			2017		
Job title	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Secretary of the Tribunal		1	1		1	1
Clerk of the Tribunal	1		1			
Mediation Officer	1	1	2			
Assistant Registrar	1	2	3	1	2	3
Office Assistant		1	1			
Court Reporter	1	1	2	1	1	2
Senior Law Clerk		1	1		1	1
Law Clerk	1	2	3	1	3	4
Procurement Assistant		1	1			
Receptionist/Clerk		1	1		1	1
Process Server	2		2	2		2
Senior Court Orderly		1	1		1	1
Documentation Assistant		3	3		2	2
TOTAL	7	15	22	6	13	19
EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL	2016			2017		
Job title	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Secretary of the Tribunal	1		1	1		1
Clerk of the Tribunal						
Senior Law Clerk	1	1	2	1	1	2
Law Clerk		1	1		1	1
Process Server	1		1	1		1
TOTAL	3	2	5	3	2	5



LONG TERM SERVICE

The Judiciary wishes to congratulate and thank the following people for their long service:

More than 35 years

- Mrs. Jeanine Lepathy
- Mrs. Jeanne-D’arc Jacqueline
- Mrs. Jacqueline Bastienne

More than 20 years

- Mr. Nilsen Laurence
- Mrs. Louisanne Leveau
- Ms. Cecile Boniface

More than 30 years

- Mrs. Vivienne Vadivello
- Mrs. Yvette Orphee

More than 15 years

- Ms. Marlyn Meme
- Mr. Tony Alcindor
- Mrs. Emmanuella Bonne
- Ms. Priscilla Lesperance

More than 25 years

- Mrs. Chantal Leste
- Mrs. Anne Marguerite Magloire
- Ms. Lathimy Naiken
- Ms. Jacqueline Port-Louis
- Ms. Myriam Stravens
- Ms. Quincy Dufresne

In 2018 the Judiciary will introduce a structure for better recognition of persons who dedicate their services to the Judiciary on a long term basis.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International events attended in Jan 2016 – Dec 2016 by Judges, Magistrates and Staff

Event	Dates	Location	Attendees
Study Tour in Abu Dhabi (in liaison with The Guy Morel Institute)	2nd – 4th Feb 2016	Abu Dhabi	Ms Marie-Angele Barbe, Senior Assistant Registrar
Maritime Crime and Justice	15th – 18th Mar 2016	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Judge Mrs Laura Pillay, Supreme Court
ICCA Congress	8th – 11th May 2016	Mauritius	Justice Mr Francis Macgregor, President of Court of Appeal
UNODC Advisory meeting on “Promoting Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa	22nd June 2016	Kenya	Master Mrs. Ellen Carolus, Supreme Court



Southern African Chief Justices' Forum Annual Conference & General Meeting	23rd – 24th Sept 2016	Namibia	Dr. Mathilda Twomey, Chief Justice, Supreme Court
Exchange visit program	4th – 11th Oct 2016	Sri Lanka	Justice Francis MacGregor, President of Court of Appeal, Mrs. Gaetanne Gonthier, Personal Assistant & Ms. Bernadette Pompee, Law Clerk
Human Rights Law in practice for Judges in Africa	10th - 14th Oct 2016	Cape Town, South Africa	Judge Melchior Vidot
Open Law Southern Africa Workshop	7th – 8th Nov 2016	Johannesburg	Ms. Jessica Kerr, Magistrate & Ms. Joelle Barnes, Executive Legal Assistant to Chief Justice

**Table – International events attended in January 2017 – December 2017 by Judges, Magistrates and Support Staff**

Event	Dates	Location	Attendees
Fourth Congress of the Conference of Constitutional Judges of Africa	23rd – 26th April 2017	Cape Town, South Africa	Dr. Mathilda Twomey, Chief Justice, Supreme Court & Ms Joelle Barnes, Executive Legal Assistant to the Chief Justice
Core skills for newly-appointed judges	24th – 28th April 2017	University of Cape Town, South Africa	Judge Mr Rony Govinden & Judge Mrs Laura Pillay, Supreme Court
Fourth Regional Judges' Forum	20th – 22nd June 2017	Johannesburg, South Africa	Justice Mr Anthony Fernando & Justice Mrs Fiona Robinson, Court of Appeal
Train the Trainers on Environmental Law	26th – 28th June 2017	Johannesburg, South Africa	Judge Mr Gustave Dodin, Supreme Court
Judicial Leadership Retreat	23rd – 28th July 2017	University of Cape Town, South Africa	Judge Mr Mohan Burhan, & Senior Magistrate Mr Brassel Adeline

Public Relations & Events Management Workshop	21st – 25th August 2017	South Africa	Mrs Anne Kautsky, PR & Court Services Officer
Human Rights – Law & Practice: An introductory course for Judges in Africa	4th – 8th Sept 2017	Cape Town, South Africa	Judge Mr. Seegobin Nunkoo & Master Mrs. Ellen Carolus, Supreme Court
Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association Conference	24th – 28th Sept 2017	Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania	Justice Mr Francis MacGregor, President of Court of Appeal
Regional Consultative Meeting on Global Judicial Integrity Network	16th – 17th Oct 2017	Swakopmund, Namibia	Dr. Mathilda Twomey, Chief Justice, Supreme Court & Ms Marie-Angele Barbe, Senior Assistant Registrar
Un colloque “Regards croisés sur les addictions”	16th – 17th Nov 2017	University, La Reunion	Judge Mr Gustave Dodin, Supreme Court
HR Development & Talent Management	20th – 24th Nov 2017	Johannesburg, South Africa	Ms Nichole Mathurin, HR & Admin Manager
Leadership Effectiveness for Managers	20th – 24th Nov 2017	Johannesburg, South Africa	Ms Edwige Aglae, Assistant Registrar
Inter-Regional Conference Addressing and Countering the drug problem: Sharing of Best Practices between the America, Africa and Asia	27th Nov – 1st Dec 2017	Nairobi, Kenya	Judge Mr Gustave Dodin, Supreme Court

Two legal training sessions were held during the court vacation in 2016 for court staff to introduce them to civil and criminal litigation. Further training for Court Reporters and Court Interpreters on legal terms and terminology was provided on 7th July 2017.

In addition the following events and training sessions were held for non-Judicial staff members during 2016 and 2017.

Events	Dates	Participants
Court staff training in basic Criminal Law and Civil Proceedings	21 <sup>st</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	All Court Support staff
Practical Human Anatomy Training at the Seychelles Hospital	June/July/August 2016	All Court Interpreters
Marine Terminology at the Seychelles Coast Guard	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	All Court Interpreters and Court Reporters
Forensic Science Training at the Scientific Support and crime Services Bureau/ Mont Fleuri	01 <sup>st</sup> August – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	All Court Interpreters
Supervisory Skills	29 <sup>th</sup> August – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2016	Group x 6
Training in Vehicles terminology	1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	All Court Interpreters
French Training – L’histoire des Seychelles	2016 -2017	All Court Interpreters
General Court Knowledge and Terminologies	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017	All Court Interpreters
French Course – (still ongoing)		All Court Interpreters
Team Building	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	2 groups x 15 staff
Stress Management	26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	1 group x 15 staff
Dealing with difficult people	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	2 groups x 15 staff
Microsoft Word Level 1 & 2 version 13 course	21 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	1 group x 10 staff
Customer Service Excellence	28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Bernadette Pompee

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

During 2016 and 2017 the following social committee events:

- 01st April: Fun walk via Victoria to St Louis, Belombre, Anse Major and boat to Beau Vallon lunch.
- 29th April: Picnic (Labour Day) at Anse Royale.
- 29th July: Fun Walk
- 15th September: Clean up the world campaign at the Supreme Annex Court
- 31st October: Creole lunch (Festival Kreol )

COURT OF APPEAL		
Court of Appeal Civil Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Civil Appeals	37	43
Constitutional Petitions	5	3
Miscellaneous Applications	16	26
Total	58	72
Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Civil Appeals	30	29
Constitutional Appeals	2	0
Constitutional Petition	5	6
Miscellaneous Application	14	24
Total	51	59
Note: statistics are accurate as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017		

Court of Appeal Criminal Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Criminal Appeals	55	18
Interlocutory Matters	14	18
Total	69	36
Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Criminal Appeals	26	76
Interlocutory Matters	13	19
Total	39	95
Note: statistics are accurate as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017		



## SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Civil Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Civil Suits	113	111
Civil Appeals	34	33
Commercial Cases	29	21
Commandment Cases	29	36
Divorce Causes	184	176
Ex Parte	223	190
Miscellaneous Applications	354	282
Miscellaneous Causes	118	79
Mediation	14	14
Total	1098	942
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 17th November 2017</i>		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Civil Suits	160	219
Civil Appeals	40	50
Commercial Cases	26	55
Commandment Cases	28	45
Divorce Causes	172	231
Ex Parte	211	217
Miscellaneous Applications	338	303
Miscellaneous Causes	140	83
Mediation	32	27
Total	1147	1230
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017</i>		
Supreme Court Criminal Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Criminal Appeals	54	25
Criminal Applications	0	1
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	7	9
Criminal Offences	72	61
Criminal Revisions	3	0
Miscellaneous Causes	0	1
Total	136	97
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017</i>		

	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Criminal Appeals	63	63
Criminal Applications	1	1
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	4	6
Criminal Offences	141	86
Criminal Revisions	0	3
Miscellaneous Causes	0	1
Total	209	160

*Note: statistics are accurate as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017*

## CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Supreme Court Constitutional Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Constitutional Petitions	7	9
Miscellaneous Applications	8	12
Total	15	21
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 17th November 2017</i>		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Constitutional Petitions	14	6
Miscellaneous Applications	12	10
Total	26	16

*Note: statistics are accurate as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017*

## MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Victoria Magistrates' Court Civil Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Civil Suits	63	181
Miscellaneous Applications	80	36
Total	143	217
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017</i>		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Civil Suits	200	197
Miscellaneous Applications	150	25
Total	350	222

*Note: statistics are accurate as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017*

Victoria Magistrates' Court Criminal Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Breach of the Peace	57	32
Criminal Offences	578	488
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	38	42
Ex Parte	25	1
Further Holding of Suspect	102	69
Juvenile Offences	43	61
Miscellaneous Causes	0	1
Public Inquiry/Inquest	2	0
Sentence Review	0	1
Traffic & Environment Offences	1464	1430
Total	2309	2125
Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Breach of the Peace	61	45
Criminal Offences	758	659
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	26	44
Ex Parte	25	4
Further Holding of Suspect	105	66
Juvenile Offences	47	28
Miscellaneous Causes	1	1
Public Inquiry/Inquest	1	1
Sentence Review	0	1
Traffic & Environment Offences	1918	1832
Total	2942	2681
Note: statistics are accurate as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017		

MAGISTRATES COURT ANSE ROYALE		
Anse Royale Magistrates' Court Criminal Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Breach of the Peace	16	15
Criminal Offences	128	179
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	1	1
Further Holding of Suspect	7	8
Miscellaneous Causes	2	11
Traffic & Environment Offences	355	245
Total	509	459
Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Breach of the Peace	15	13
Criminal Offences	138	169
Criminal Miscellaneous Applications	1	1
Further Holding of Suspect	7	7
Miscellaneous Causes	4	7
Traffic & Environment Offences	288	348
Total	453	545
Note: statistics are accurate as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017		
PRASLIN		
Praslin Magistrates' Court Civil Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Civil Suits	2	7
Total	2	7
Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Civil Suits	3	2
Total	3	2
Note: statistics are accurate as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017		



Praslin Magistrates’ Court Criminal Cases		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Breach of the Peace	6	2
Criminal Offences	73	33
Traffic & Environment Offences	31	35
Total	110	70
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017</i>		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Breach of the Peace	7	1
Criminal Offences	48	57
Traffic & Environment Offences	21	40
Total	76	98
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017</i>		

RENT CONTROL BOARD

Rent Board		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Rent Board Cases	63	45
Total	63	45
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 16th November 2017</i>		
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Rent Board Cases	52	60
Total	52	60
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017</i>		

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

Employment Tribunal		
Genre	2016	2017
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>
Employment Cases	153	220
Total	153	220
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Employment Cases	136	129
Total	136	129
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at December 2017</i>		

FAMILY TRIBUNAL

The Family Tribunal continues to face a very high number of cases on a day-to-day basis. Due to the nature of the cases the Family Tribunal addresses, it may be seized with the same case for up to 18 years, therefore completion rate of cases is difficult to measure. Instead we have listed the number of sittings of the Tribunal under the column “Cases put before the Tribunal”.

Genre	2016	2017		
	<i>Filed</i>	<i>Filed</i>		
Child Related Matters	432	454		
Family Violence	511	417		
Total	943	871		
Cases put before the Tribunal	<i>First Appearance</i>	<i>Two Appearances or more</i>	<i>First Appearance</i>	<i>Two Appearances or more</i>
Child Related Matters	342	3373	368	2962
Family Violence	410	849	329	612
Total	752	4222	697	3574
<i>Note: statistics are accurate as at 27 December 2017.</i>				

APOSTILLES

During 2016 the Supreme Court Registry issued 33 041 apostilles.  
During 2017 the Supreme Court Registry issued 30 905 apostilles.

LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS

During 2016, 753 legal aid applications were filed with the Judiciary. Of these 567 were granted, 184 were refused and 2 were cancelled. During 2017, 792 legal aid applications were filed as at 14.12.17. Of these 613 were granted, 173 were refused and 6 were cancelled.

MISCELLANEOUS

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN SEYCHELLES

There are currently 47 licenced Legal Practitioners in Seychelles. A Legal Practitioner is any person who is practicing law within the country and can include notaries, attorneys-at-law, persons granted limited rights to practice, members of the Attorney General’s Chambers, and persons from overseas jurisdictions to whom temporary licences to practice are granted.

During 2015, the licencing of Legal Practitioners was shifted from Seychelles Licencing Authority to the Registrar of the Supreme Court. During 2016 two persons were admitted as attorneys. During 2017 four persons were admitted as attorneys.

The Office of the Chief Justice is primarily responsible for the receiving of complaints against Legal Practitioners and has statutory responsibilities with regard to disciplining attorneys-at-law. During 2016 Judge Samia Govinden sat with Mr. Kieran Shah representing the Bar and Mr. Andy Asba representing the Attorney General on the first committee of inquiry into the conduct of an attorney at law. This committee set a high standard of procedural fairness for the taking of such unpleasant but important cases.

In 2016, the Chief Justice instituted the practice of having a quarterly high tea held at the Palais de Justice to which all members of the Bar with the judicial officers are invited to attend.

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#### SUPREME COURT LIBRARY SERVICE

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During 2016 and 2017 all books in the library have been covered, repaired and classified. Digital copies of all available Government Gazettes, Bills and Acts have been made and stored. The Archives in the Palais de Justice have been roofed and airconditioning units have been installed. Plans have been made for the digital capture of all books and to create a log for the borrowing of books from the library.

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#### PRACTICE DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN 2016 AND 2017

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2016 – none

2017 – Practice Direction 1 of 2017 dated 20 June 2017.

- Practice Direction 2 of 2017 dated 25 September 2017
- Practice Direction 3 of 2017 dated 25 September 2017



*State Counsel being sworn in by the Chief Justice*

